



# Livestock Assistance Program

## Signup

Signup for the 2000 Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) began January 18, 2001.

## What is LAP?

LAP provides direct payments to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to natural disasters during calendar year 2000.

LAP assistance will be provided to eligible producers in approved counties. To be approved, a county must have suffered a 40 percent or greater loss of available grazing for at least 3 consecutive months as a result of damage due to drought, hot weather, disease, insect infestation, flood, fire, hurricane, earthquake, severe storms, or other disasters during the 2000-crop year. The maximum grazing loss allowable for payment is 80 percent. A county must have been approved as a primary disaster area under a Secretarial disaster designation or Presidential disaster declaration after January 1, 2000. All county requests for eligibility are reviewed and a determination of eligibility made by the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs in Washington, D.C.

Eligibility for LAP benefits for an individual producer is based on

whether a natural disaster caused the producer in an approved county to suffer a 40 percent or greater loss of grazing for 3 or more consecutive months during calendar year (CY) 2000.

## Eligibility Requirements

Eligible livestock are beef and dairy cattle, buffalo or beefalo when maintained on the same basis as beef cattle, sheep, goats, swine, and equine animals used commercially for human food or kept for the production of food or fiber on the owner's farm.

Livestock become eligible for LAP benefits only if they are owned or leased for at least 3 months before the payment period.

To be eligible for LAP, a producer must:

- Possess beneficial interest in eligible livestock or have financial risk in eligible livestock;
- Report on form CCC-740 eligible livestock and grazing acreage;
- Report on form CCC-740 percent of loss of grazing;
- Complete "person" determination forms;
- Have gross income of less than \$2.5 million for each person in an operation for calendar year 1999;

- Certify conservation compliance on form AD-1026; and
- Be a citizen of the United States or an alien legally residing here.

LAP assistance is based upon the value of feed calculated on a corn equivalency basis required for eligible livestock during at least a 3-consecutive-month period where a minimum 40 percent feed loss occurred. A producer must have sufficient grazing available for eligible livestock in order to receive the maximum payment. A producer's grazing loss, reported on form CCC-740, cannot exceed the maximum grazing loss established for the county.

## Additional Benefits

Additional benefits for losses due to the 2000 natural disaster may be available for forage losses under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or FSA emergency loans. Because a single allocation of \$430 million is available to fund livestock programs nationwide, a national factor will be applied to ensure equitable distribution of benefits to all eligible producers.

## Where and How To Sign Up

Applications for LAP benefits must be filed in the local USDA Service Center.

When producers apply for LAP, they will be required to provide the following information:

- The number, kind of livestock, and weight range of livestock owned or leased during CY 2000, and the producer's share in those livestock;
- Acres, location, and type of grass or forage used to support eligible livestock in CY 2000;
- An estimated percentage of producer's loss of grazing; and
- Information about significant changes in livestock numbers, including dates when the changes occurred.

A producer can receive LAP benefits and also receive benefits under other programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture for grazing losses.

Further information is available at local FSA county offices. These are usually listed in telephone books under "United States Government, U.S. Department of Agriculture." Information is also available on FSA's Home Page at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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